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Item 49 of the preliminary list*

QUESTION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINAS)

Letter dated 19 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to request that you arrange for the text of the present letter and its annex to be distributed as a document of the General Assembly under item 49 of the preliminary list. The annex contains a note dated 12 May 1998 from the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Buenos Aires to the Government of Argentina in response to the latter's note of 30 April 1998.

(Signed) John WESTON

* A/53/50.

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ANNEX

Note dated 12 May 1998 from the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Government of Argentina

Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship - Malvinas and South Atlantic Department - and has the honour to refer to the Ministry's note of 30 April 1998 (A/53/121).

Her Majesty's Government has no doubt about the United Kingdom's sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, its sovereign rights and jurisdiction over the surrounding continental shelf and its consequential right to administer the territory and the shelf in accordance with the rules of international law. Accordingly, as set out in the United Kingdom's unilateral declaration of 27 September 1995, Her Majesty's Government rejects the assertion of sovereign rights and jurisdiction over the maritime areas surrounding the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands contained in the Ministry's note.

The Embassy avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship - Malvinas and South Atlantic Department - the assurances of its highest consideration.